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BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1961.

Members of the Borough Council, 1961.

Alderman Robert Thomas J.P., Mayor

Alderman W. G. David

Alderman Mrs. G. Tilley

Alderman Edward John J.P.

Councillor Mrs. F. E. Hinton J.P.

Councillor R. H. Williams J.P.

Councillor T. J. Williams

Councillor Glyn McNeil

Councillor K. Hutchings

Councillor T. A. Cooksley

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Councillor Harold Bevan

Councillor Roy Edwards

Councillor Peter Sheppard

Councillor Mrs. E. Jones

BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1961.

October 1962

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
Cowbridge Borough Council.

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Borough for the year 1961.

It has been prepared in accordance with the suggestions from the Welsh Board of Health as contained in the Circular 1/61 (Wales) and supplies particulars under the following headings:- vital statistics, social conditions, drainage, water supply, public cleansing, housing, food hygiene, in fact, all matters which have an affect upon the health of the inhabitants.

Whilst the population of the Borough for the year 1960 was estimated as 990, the Registrar General estimates it as 1,100 for 1961. There were only nine births and fifteen deaths.

There were three notifications of infectious disease.

During the year 14 houses and flats were completed and occupied and at present the Council own and control 70 dwellings.

Business premises in the town are being improved and modernised and a number of food preparing premises have installed new appliances in keeping with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors and also the Officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

G. McKIM THOMAS

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small market town comprising an area of 84 acres, and the present Registrar General's estimate of the population is 1,100. It is situated on the main highway from London to Fishguard and in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan. It consists mainly of a mile long street astride the small River Thaw that flows south to the Bristol Channel.

The Borough is the natural centre of the Vale of Glamorgan and on market day (traditionally Tuesday but recently held on Monday), its importance as an agricultural centre becomes very obvious. Farmers, butchers and cattle dealers come from far and near. The principal industries are clearly in keeping with agricultural pursuits such as agricultural engineers, agricultural merchants and shops and professional offices which specialise in country requirements.

The Cowbridge Grammar School, founded in 1608, is situated within the Borough and in addition to some 50 boarders, attracts day boys from the neighbouring villages and townships of Llantwit Major and Llanharan. The Girls' High School, adjoining the Borough but in the neighbouring Rural District, serves a similar function, although it no longer accommodates boarders. The Pontfaen Junior School provides elementary education and, in addition, there is a small private junior school in the High Street.

Public water supply is available throughout the area. A house to house collection of refuse is carried out at weekly intervals. Electricity, gas and a sewerage system are also provided in all parts of the town.

There are no large factories, the factories existing engage a small number of employees some of whom are members of the owners' own families. A list of factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
2. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., do.
5. Mr. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietor.
6. Mr. A. H. Jones, West End and High Street, Garage Proprietor.
7. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.
8. Mid-Vale Motor Co., Ltd., Motor Engineers.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book ...	319
Sum represented by the penny rate	£54
Rateable value of the district	£13,068
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	1,100

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

Births Registered - 1961.	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate live births	6	2	8
Illegitimate live births	-	1	1
	6	3	9

Still Births.	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Birth rate for Cowbridge Borough	8.51
Birth rate for England and Wales	17.4
Birth rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	17.03
Birth rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	16.90

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

Death rate for Cowbridge Borough	15.13
Death rate for England and Wales	12.0
Death rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	14.40
Death rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	14.62

As the births and deaths in the Borough are so few, any number calculated on the birth and death rate does not give a satisfactory comparison with the rates for larger populations. Even very small numbers of births or deaths alter the rates very considerably, and this is the reason for the very low birth rate and high death rate for the Borough.

Causes of Death, 1961.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2	4
Coronary disease, angina	11	2	3
Other heart disease	1	4	5
Influenza	-	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Total	5	11	16

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

G. McKim Thomas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (part-time holds appointments with Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector (part-time holds appointment with Cowbridge Rural District Council). Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Examination Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

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Committees Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Oak Street, Aberkenfig, the telephone number of which is Aberkenfig 303.

One ambulance is stationed at the Fire Station, Cowbridge and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed, although under regionalisation specific cases might be admitted to other more convenient hospitals.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend and Cardiff. By arrangement with the Air Ministry, several civilians in the area have been treated at the hospital at the Royal Air Force Station, St. Athan. This hospital (within the area of the Cowbridge Rural District Council) was closed at the end of the year with regret to all concerned. The hospital had been extensively used by residents in the area for general and confinement cases and all spoke most highly of the excellent treatment received.

In an effort to prolong the life of the hospital joint meetings were held between neighbouring councils, one of which was attended by the local Member of Parliament. Local medical practitioners and representatives of the Royal Air Force Medical Services also attended. Most of those attending were anxious to see the hospital retained if at all possible. These efforts were unsuccessful and the hospital finally closed at the end of December 1961.

Alternative arrangements have been made by the Regional Hospital Board for additional beds to be available in hospitals at Bridgend and Cardiff.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend Hospital or St. Athan R.A.F. Hospital.

Ear, nose and throat diseases in children under 15 years of age are dealt with in the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Cowbridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. In addition, some patients receive treatment at the Bridgend Hospital. Children suffering from squint can also beceive treatment at the Orthoptic Clinic, and those cases needing operative treatment are admitted to the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital as above.

Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the County Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough. With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to the mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Schools.

The following schools are situated in the Borough:-

(a) Cowbridge Grammar School, providing boarding facilities for 50 boys and day-boy accommodation for 317.

(b) Y Bontfaen Junior School providing accommodation for 95 pupils.

(c) Private Junior School, Westgate Street provides for 38 pupils.

The Grammar School has separate cooking facilities for the boarders and day-boys and these have been found to be satisfactory. Y Bontfaen has a modern canteen.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Thaw which passes through the Borough is under the control of the Glamorgan River Board who arrange periodical cleansings as the needs arise.

There has been no flooding in the Borough during the year.

HOUSING.

(a) New Council Houses. Work was completed during the year on six houses and eight flats on a site adjoining the existing houses at Broadway and Borough Close. The Council's standard points scheme was used in allocating tenancies and it was possible to move the occupiers of five existing larger Council houses into the newly built houses and flats, thus releasing the former houses for the larger families. Four families from condemned properties were rehoused.

The Council's Housing Estate consists of 70 dwellings, 62 of these having been erected since 1918.

Four of the older Council houses have been improved with the aid of Government grants.

A scheme for the improvement of the caretaker's quarters at the Town Hall was prepared during the year but the work has not yet commenced.

(b) Private Enterprise. Four houses were completed and occupied during the year. There were no private houses under construction at the end of the year.

(c) Selection of Tenants. Tenants of Council houses are selected by the points scheme. The home conditions are investigated by the Public Health Inspector who reports the points awarded to the Council. In this way the most deserving cases are given priority. The final selection of the tenants is made by the Council.

(d) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. Closing Orders were made in respect of two houses and a portion of a third house was dealt with in a similar manner. Tenants were rehoused by the Council.

Housing Improvement Grants.

The Public Health Inspector reports that the following applications for improvement grants were dealt with during the year:-

(a) Discretionary Grants. No applications for discretionary grants were received during the year. Since the commencement of the scheme in 1955, 18 such grants have been made by the Council.

(b) Standard Grants. The following applications were dealt with during the year:-

(i)	32 Eastgate Street	£90. 17s. 8d.
(ii)	75 Eastgate Street	£105.
(iii)	30 Eastgate Street	£98. 10s. 6d.

A total of 7 standard grants have now been made.

Council's Housing Estate.

The Council's Estate now comprises the following houses:-

Broadway	12 houses
Borough Close	36 houses
Cae Stumpie	14 houses and flats
Church Street	2 houses
Southgate	1 house
The Butts and Bush House	4 houses
Town Hall	1
Total	70

Plans.

The following plans were approved under the Building Byelaws:-

(a)	New Houses	Nil
(b)	Conversion of premises into houses	Nil
(c)	New business premises or alterations	4
(d)	Additions or alterations to houses	5
(e)	Drainage works	Nil
(f)	Stores or garages	1
	Total	10

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. By arrangement with the Cowbridge Rural District Council a twice weekly collection of house refuse is carried out from hotels and cafes in the Borough. Private houses have a once weekly collection. A modern refuse collection vehicle is used for the purpose. Disposal of refuse is also carried out under an arrangement with the Rural District Council.

(b) Refuse Bins. Almost all houses are provided with properly constructed galvanised refuse bins, and it is unusual to see any other type of container used in the Borough. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action where necessary to require householders to provide suitable bins.

The occupiers of the new Council houses and flats at Cae Stumpie were provided with galvanised refuse bins with rubber lids in the contract for the construction of these premises.

(c) Street Cleansing. The main street is on each side of the London to Fishguard trunk road. This highway is under the control of the Glamorgan County Council who arrange for cleansing with a mobile street cleaner.

The back and side streets are cleansed by the Borough roadman.

Concrete litter bins are provided at various parts of the town and have been responsible for a reduction in the amount of paper deposited on the streets.

(d) Cesspool Emptying. One house, some distance from the public sewer, is still served with a cesspool and the Borough Council have an arrangement with the Rural District Council for its emptying by a modern, suction operated vehicle.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Cowbridge Borough and Rural District Council have a joint sewerage scheme with works at Lake Farm, in the Rural Area. The maintenance of these works is calculated by the Treasurer annually, and apportioned between the two authorities.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are no industries producing smoke or noxious gases in the area or the immediate vicinity, and as a result there are no atmospheric pollution problems in the area.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

This Act came into force in 1960 and gives local authorities power to deal with noises or vibrations as statutory nuisances to be dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, in the same manner as public health nuisances.

It was not necessary to take any action under this head during the year.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

CAMPING LICENCES.

There are no caravan sites in the Borough.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

(a) Rodent Control.

Surface Treatments:- Rodent control is carried out by an operative employed by the Rural District Council. Visits are made to business premises in the town, particularly those dealing in foodstuffs and treatments are carried out where necessary. Private properties are treated free of charge but business premises have to pay for the labour and material used. Warfarin is the material now used for this work and it has proved quite successful.

Details of the work carried out during the year are set out below.

Type of Property	Properties in Area	Inspections	Minor Infestations of rats and mice found	Treatments carried out
Local Authority	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dwelling Houses	319	57	17	17
Business Premises	51	2	2	2
Agricultural	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	373	59	19	19

(b) Sewer Treatments:- The public sewer was treated for rats during the year and particulars of the infestations found are given below. The manhole showing pre-bait taken was treated.

No. of Manholes in System	Manholes Baited	Manholes Showing Pre-Bait Taken
102	20	1

(c) Other Pests:- The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Cowbridge Borough is within the specified area under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. There are no registered dairies within the area, the distributors concerned operate from the adjoining rural district.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960.

These Regulations transferred the Borough's function of licensing milk dealers to the Glamorgan County Council. A list of such dealers was forwarded to them.

A new provision under the Regulations is that the Public Health Inspector now has to pay for samples of milk taken. Previous legislation permitted such samples to be taken without payment except where they were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority for adulteration etc.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of distributors on Register 3
Number of dairies Registered ... ... Nil

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Routine inspections are made of food premises within the Borough, but the number of food handlers is too small to warrant the organisation of any courses on clean food handling. All food premises comply with the constructional requirements of the Regulations.

During the year, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food produced Food Hygiene Codes of Practice Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 relating to 'Hygiene in the Retail Meat and Fish Trade' and 'Hygienic Transport and Handling of Meat and Fish.' Copies of these were forwarded to the traders in the town dealing with this type of food.

MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, PRESSED MEATS ETC.

Four butchers are registered for the manufacture of meats etc. Their premises conform with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Most grocers and other food shops now sell frozen sausages from refrigerated counters and frozen food cabinets.

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured within the town. The retailers registered with the Council all obtain ice cream from one or other of the national manufacturing companies.

No samples were taken during the year.

During the period 1954 - 1960 all samples taken were in Grade 1 which is satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

There is no slaughterhouse within the Borough. The four butchers obtain their meat from wholesalers operating outside the area or slaughter at the public slaughterhouse at Bridgend.

Meat is inspected by the Public Health Inspector at the slaughterhouses concerned before it leaves the premises.

Periodical visits are made to butchers shops and occasionally butchers meat is found unfit, chiefly due to internal decomposition. When this occurs it is examined by the Public Health Inspector who issues a condemnation certificate, stains the meat and arranges for its disposal at a modern digesting plant where it is sterilised before being used for animal food or fertiliser.

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

Cowbridge has an ancient market owned by the Corporation, but leased to two local auctioneering firms. Monday is market day and the market is extensively used by farmers in the south of the Vale of Glamorgan, and butchers attend from Glamorgan and neighbouring counties.

Occasionally, additional markets and fair days are held, at which store stock is sold.

Modern tubular steel pens and a covered cattle sale ring were installed in 1957. During the year the Borough Council decided to purchase a field to the west of the existing market and this will be used for market extensions as and when required.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955: ADULTERATIONS ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W. D. Lewis, the County Public Health Inspector, during the year ended 31st December, 1961:-

Desiccated Coconut	1	Pepper	1
Evaporated Milk	1	Soft Drinks	2
Fish Paste	1	Sugar	1
Glucose	1	Table Jelly	2
Jam	2	Vegetables	
Milk	3	(canned)	1
		Total	16

SHOPS.

During the year further shops were provided with new fronts and a large majority of the shops within the Borough are now provided with attractive shop fronts.

No instances were found where statutory action was necessary.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1961 was as follows:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register 1st January, 1961	2	3	-	-	5
On Register 31st December, 1961	2	2	-	-	4

Additions to Register.

One male pulmonary case was transferred into the area during the year and his name was added to the register.

Removals.

One male and one female pulmonary case were removed from the register as "recovered."

Housing Conditions.

All the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

(a) Poliomyelitis:- The Divisional Medical Officer for the South-East Glamorgan Health Division informs me that 215 injections of polio vaccine were administered at the Cowbridge Clinic (Woodstock House), and 16 record cards were received from general practitioners in respect of patients vaccinated against poliomyelitis, residing in the Borough.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination:- 14 primary vaccinations and three re-vaccinations were recorded in the Borough during 1961. These were carried out by family practitioners.

(c) B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children:- The Divisional Medical Officer states that the following B.C.G. vaccinations were carried out during the year:-

Number of children Skin Tested (Mantoux)	103
Number of children with positive reaction	49
Number of children with negative reaction	54
Number of children vaccinated	53

(d) Diphtheria Immunsiation:- No case of diphtheria occurred during the year, undoubtedly due to the fact that over the years the majority of children have been immunised. It is necessary to re-emphasise the necessity for children to be immunised in early infancy and that a booster dose be given when the child reaches school age. The Divisional Medical Officer gives the following information:-

Under 5 years.	5 - 15 years.	Boosters.	
		Under 5.	5 - 15 years.
2	Nil	Nil	1

(e) Whooping Cough:- The figures for whooping cough vaccination show that one child under 5 years of age was innoculated during the year.

(f) Triple Antigen (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Vaccine):- 23 children under 5 years and two children between 5 and 15 years were innoculated during the year, and booster doses were given to two children under 5 and six children between 5 and 15 years.

Infectioud Diseases.

Only two cases of measles and one scarlet fever were notified during the year. The patients concerned were nursed at home.

CINEMAS.

There is no cinema in the area.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take action under the above Act during the year.

POULTRY KEEPING ON COUNCIL'S HOUSING ESTATES.

Very few people now keep poultry on housing estates. The Borough Council has a standard for poultry keeping and the Public Health Inspector reports that no complaints were received during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The report on the action taken in connection with factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness) Section 2 (Overcrowding) Section 3 (Temperature) Section 4 (Ventilation) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors) are enforced by the Council	1	1	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only is enforced by the Council	8	10	Nil
Total	9	11	Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR. 1961.

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	76	1	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	25	Nil	Nil
Milk and Dairies	3	Nil	Nil
Housing	107	5	3
Public Health Act	37	4	Nil
Infectious Disease	2	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	11	Nil	Nil
House Refuse	61	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	3	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	120	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	47	Nil	Nil